

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

<i>Confirmation Number</i>	1232
<i>Application Number</i>	10/015631
<i>Filing Date</i>	10/DEC/2001
<i>First Named Inventor</i>	BENNIE THOMPSON
<i>Group Art Unit</i>	3731
<i>Examiner Name</i>	NGUYEN, TUAN VAN
<i>Attorney Docket Number</i>	END0786USA

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		2001/039426	A1	Makower	11-08-2001	
		3618842	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		3643851	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		3717294	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		3819100	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		3949924	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		4204623	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		4304236	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		4331277	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		4349028	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		4379457	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		4410125	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		4513746	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		4566620	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		4595007		Mericle		
		4621639		Transue et al		
		4728020	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5040715	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5062563	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5127486		Rice et al.	06-08-1993	
		5190203	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5192288	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5217472	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5258010	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5423858	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5437684	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5443197	A	United States Surgical Corp.		

		5443198	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5447514	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5454825	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5478003		Green, David T.	12-26-1995	
		5485952	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5522817	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5560532	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5593421	A	Bauer	01-14-1997	
		6530933		Yeung, et al		
		6626916		Yeung, et al		

#### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	KindCode <sup>5</sup>				
		EP	40157	A1	United States Surgical Corp.	EP		
		EP	543107	B1	United States Surgical Corp.	EP		
		WO	98/07374	A	Hayhurst	02-26-1998		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
--------------------	--	-----------------	--

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of U.S. Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov). <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. <sup>6</sup> If possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

*If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.*